

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

EUR-12 /109 W

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R 071317Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1463

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EALR, MTN, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN CRITICISM OF U.S. TRADE ACT CONTINUES

1. SUMMARY - VENEZUELA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS TOOK ANOTHER SWIPE AT THE U.S. TRADE ACT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. VENEZUELA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, DR. JOSE MARIA MACHIN, CRITICIZED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CONGRESS, FOR NOT MAKING A SINCERE EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THE EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND THE OTHER OPEC MEMBERS FROM THE BENEFITS OF GSP OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT. MACHIN MADE THE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN CARACAS ON JANUARY 4 PRIOR TO RETURNING TO WASHINGTON WHERE HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE PRESIDENT OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. HE SAID "IT IS CERTAIN THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOR THE CONGRESS HAVE MADE SINCERE EFFORTS TO REFORM THE DISCRIMINATORY AND COERCIVE NORMS OF THE LAW." HE ADMITTED THAT A FEW ISOLATED CONGRESSMEN HAD MADE EFFORTS TO AMEND THE LAW, BUT THAT THESE MOTIONS WERE RELEGATED TO THE "CORNER WHERE THINGS

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DIE FROM FORGETFULNESS AND LACK OF INTEREST." HE CONCLUDED THAT

"NORTH AMERICA HAD BETTER UNDERSTAND THAT FOR NORMAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS TO EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, A HIGH SENSE OF JUSTICE MUST PREDOMINATE. PRECISELY THAT DOES NOT CHARACTERIZE THE AFOREMENTIONED LAW."

3. COMMENT - MACHIN'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS EMPHASIZES THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA'S EXCLUSION FROM THE GSP CONTINUES TO BE A FESTERING SORE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, AS WELL AS A PROVEN WAY FOR VENEZUELA TO MAKE POINTS WITH THE LDC'S IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA00156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0371
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760180/aaaactou.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN CRITICISM OF U.S. TRADE ACT CONTINUES
TAGS: ETRD, EALR, VE, US, MTN, (MACHIN, JOSE MARIA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006